

“Any-ID” E-payment Project in Thailand

Mr. Apisak Tantivorawong, the Ministry of Finance, recently revealed to the public that at its second meeting on 5th February 2016, the National E-payment Committee (“**Committee**”) has scheduled to launch the first part of its “Any-ID e-payment scheme” in September 2016 and to fully implement the National E-payment Master Plan (“**NEMP**”) within one year and a half.

The NEMP was approved by the Cabinet on 22nd December 2015. The plan is aimed at an eventual cashless society to ease financial transactions and business activities. The Any-ID feature would be used for the government sector, tax registered juristic persons and tax registered individuals during its first phase where around 500,000 Any-ID e-payment machines would be in use. E-commerce operators will be allowed to use the e-payments to provide a more convenient and personalized shopping experience to customers.

The Committee, chaired by the Deputy Premier Somkid Jatusripitak, targets to move the economy of Thailand towards a digital future and reduce reliance on cash. It is believed that, when fully implemented, the national e-payments system will advance the Thailand's financial infrastructure by five to 10 years and result in the estimated annual cost-savings for banks and businesses at around THB75 billion (USD2.14 billion).

The “Any ID” project is one of the five main projects under the NEMP. It will enable persons to transfer money and make financial transactions using their ID card, mobile number or email address. It is expected that the Any-ID service, which also covers mobile phone numbers and electronic purses, will boost government transparency and provide financial assistance to low-income earners while increasing the collection of the VAT and the withholding tax.

Consumers will also be able to use Any-ID feature to pay water and electricity bills. The government will use the Any-ID feature to provide the public with more efficient public healthcare, public transport services and other services.



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